

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01971 221145Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 221100Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5156  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
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AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1971

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GY  
SUBJECT: COURT CASE AGAINST LIBERATION PARTY LEADER DISMISSED

1. A GUYANESE COURT DISMISSED GOVERNMENT CHARGES IN THE  
SEDITIONOUS LIBEL TRIAL OF DR. GANRAJ KUMAR, LEADER OF THE  
LIBERATION PARTY ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18. KUMAR DID NOT HAVE  
TO PRESENT A DEFENSE, AS JUDGE LINDSAY COLLINS CONCURRED WITH  
THE ACCUSED'S LAWYER, B.O. ADAMS' ASSERTION THAT KUMAR  
LACKED A SEDITIONOUS INTENT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE HAD NO  
BASIS.

2. THE GOVERNMENT HAD BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST KUMAR IN  
1974, BUT THE TRIAL, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, HAD NOT BEEN HELD  
UNTIL NOW. MEANWHILE, KUMAR HAD BEEN FREE ON BAIL. HE  
HAD MADE PUBLIC ACCUSTATIONS THAT THE GOG HAD FRADULENTLY  
RIGGED THE 1973 ELECTIONS AND THAT BALLOT BOXES HAD PASSED  
THROUGH OFFICES OF THE GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE BEFORE REACHING  
THE ASSIGNED DESTINATIONS FOR TABULATING.

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3. COMMENT: THE ASSIGNMENT OF JUSTICE LINDSAY COLLINS  
TO PRESIDE OVER THE CASE PROBABLY INDICATES THAT THE  
GOG DID NOT EXPECT TO CONVICT KUMAR. COLLINS HAS A  
REPUTATION OF INDEPENDENCE. HE DOES NOT CAVE IN UNDER  
GOG PRESSURES. SOME GUYANESE HAD FEARED THAT IF THE  
GOG SUCCEEDED IN CONVICTING KUMAR, A PRECEDENT WOULD BE  
SET FOR FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** COURT DECISIONS, PARTY LEADERS, TREASON TRIALS  
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